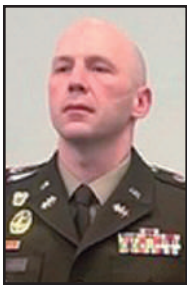


## A major event

An Apopka High School alumnus is promoted to rank of major. See page 3A.



## Sports

Apopka baseball falls to Patriots, defeat Silver Hawks. See page 1B.



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# The Apopka Chief

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Volume 102 Number 8

Friday, February 23, 2024 / 50 cents



This is a rendering of what an apartment complex at the Apopka Station Street Project would look like. The Apopka City Council voted 4-1 on approving a multi-use development planned for Station Street in downtown Apopka – known as the Apopka Station Street Project – and to proceed with its development agreement at the Wednesday, February 21, meeting.

## City Council approves apartment complex at Apopka Station Street project

By Teresa Sargeant  
Apopka Chief Staff

The Apopka City Council voted 4-1 on approving a multi-use development planned for Station Street in downtown Apopka – known as the Apopka Station Street Project – and to proceed with its development

agreement at the Wednesday, February 21, meeting. Commissioner Kyle Becker cast the no vote.

Also on Wednesday, February 21, the Apopka Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) Board approved 5-1 on the same proposal and to proceed with a development agreement for it. As a CRA Board

member, Becker cast the no vote at that meeting, too.

The Apopka Station Street Project proposal outlines the general design for a 60-unit, two-building apartment complex and associated parking and event space in down-

See CITY Page 5A

## Artists sought for 62nd Art and Foliage Festival

The 62nd Apopka Art and Foliage Festival, which showcases the work of juried artisans and crafters, and top foliage growers from Central Florida, will be held at Kit Land Nelson Park in Apopka on April 27 and 28. Admission is free.

Aside from juried artisans and crafters and foliage growers, there will be music, food, a wine and beer garden, and a kid's zone presented by Home Depot.

One hundred percent of the proceeds from the festival are given back to the community through donations and scholarships.

The GFWC Apopka Woman's Club and the city of Apopka are organizing the Apopka Art and Foliage Festival at Kit Land Nelson Park, 35 S. Park Ave., Apopka on Saturday, April

27 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday, April 28, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

GFWC Apopka Woman's Club is a not-for-profit civic organization that supports the Apopka community, and a member of the General Federation of Women's Clubs.

"The objective of the GFWC Apopka Woman's Club is to bring together women in an organization where they can use their energies and abilities to benefit their community by promoting civic, cultural, educational, and charitable activities," according to the organization's website.

Applications are now available for artists and crafters who wish to enter the festival. Visit [apopka-artandfoliagefestival.org](http://apopka-artandfoliagefestival.org) for further details and ap-

See ART Page 8A

## Check donated



Foliage Sertoma Club President Lorena Potter (l) presented a check to the educational foundation Two Peas in a Pod at the club luncheon on Tuesday, February 20, to founders John Cloran (c) and Commissioner Alexander Smith (r). There, Cloran and Smith presented their school program on the principles of planting and growing sunflowers. The funds are earmarked to subsidize Apopka High School, Piedmont Lakes, and Wolf Lake Middle School agricultural students' expenses to show their animals at the forthcoming Central Florida Fair.

## FAMU, museum dedicate historical desk

With humble hearts, leadership at Florida A&M University (FAMU) College of Law graciously accepted the desk used by the late defense attorney Alexander Akerman, Jr., who fought against racism, prejudice, and hatred in the 1940s and 1950s. The historic desk is a gift from the Apopka Historical Society.

FAMU Law hosted a program on Thursday, February 15, where the desk was unveiled to students, faculty, staff, community partners and friends of both the Apopka Historical Society and FAMU Law.

"We are delighted to make this unique contribution to the preservation of history," President of the Apopka Historical Society Maribel Brinkle said in a news release. "This desk, once a silent witness to a crucial moment in our legal history, will now have a new home at Florida A&M University's College of



Photo courtesy of FAMU

The Akerman desk is unveiled at FAMU Law by Eddie Irvin, Vivian Shepherd, Angela Irvin McKinnon (relatives of Groveland Four), President of Apopka Historical Society Maribel Brinkle, Interim FAMU Law Dean Cecil Howard, Irene Akerman, Andrea Akerman Voss, and Jesse McGee (relatives of Alexander Akerman, Jr.)

Law."

Akerman's desk will be displayed in the law school's atrium before being permanently moved to the fourth floor in the

library near the Virgil Hawkins Collection.

"FAMU Law accepts this symbol of civil rights and justice for all in the form of attorney Ak-

erman's work desk," said FAMU Law's Interim Dean Cecil Howard in the news release. "Our law students

See DESK Page 8A

## NORWF holds City Council candidates forum



The Northwest Orange Republican Women Federated (NORWF) hosted a forum for the Apopka City Council candidates on Thursday, February 15, at The Hilton Garden Inn, Apopka City Center. Pictured (l to r) are Eric Mock, Seat 4 candidate; Darryl Richardson, Seat 3 candidate; Nadia Anderson, Seat 3 candidate; and Nick Nesta, Seat 4 incumbent and candidate.

Photo courtesy of NORWF.

## This week Section A

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[FloridaPublicNotices.com](http://FloridaPublicNotices.com)





Apopka Event of the Week

Spring Pops with the Orlando Philharmonic Orchestra, is Saturday, March 2, from 5-7 p.m. at the Apopka Amphitheater, Northwest Recreation Complex, 3710 Jason Dweley Parkway. Bring a blanket and pack a picnic for a free concert featuring the Orlando Philharmonic Orchestra. Mauricio Céspedes Rivero will be the conductor for the evening.

Quotable

Congress has not authorized the DOE to take such drastic actions, which would have implications both inside and outside our borders.  
Guest columnists on stopping export of liquid natural gas

Opinion

The Apopka Chief  
A weekly newspaper founded in 1923

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Feb. 12, 1929 - Sept. 18, 2021

Our position

Domestic energy war intensifies by halting of export terminal permits

By Matt Egan and Brent Bennett  
Texas Public Policy Foundation

On Jan. 26, President Joe Biden took an aggressive step forward in his war on American energy by halting the permitting of new liquified natural gas (LNG) export terminals. This action has massive global implications, as Texas Public Policy Foundation’s Mark Mills laid out when the decision was publicly announced.

It also has the added benefit for the president of attacking primarily Texas and Louisiana, red states that account for the bulk of U.S. LNG exports. This decision comes on the heels of Texas taking steps to secure its border with Mexico, putting the state directly at odds with the administration – once again.

But the president’s politically motivated actions will reverberate far beyond America’s natural gas producing regions. By locking global supply and demand imbalances in place for longer, this decision will send billions of dollars to foreign producers and raise the cost of energy globally. Any short-term drop in domestic prices will ultimately be negated by reductions in future domestic production.

If this decision doesn’t help Americans and hurts our allies, why do it? Politics, of course, primarily appeasing the radical green cartel that forms a key part of the president’s base, and, perhaps to the surprise of a casual observer, rent-seeking industries looking to hoard short-term supply.

President Biden’s environmental extremism means our allies will become more reliant on our adversaries. For context, 87 percent of US LNG exports went primarily to U.S. allies in Europe and Asia. The Biden administration blunting America’s ability to participate on the world energy stage creates a vacuum that will undoubtedly be filled by the other major natural gas exporting countries – Russia, Qatar, and Iran – who are certainly not friends of the U.S.

Bear in mind that the Department of Energy (DOE) has never denied an LNG export application,

for environmental reasons or otherwise, and rejected a petition to do so just six months ago. President Biden could be pushing for more U.S. LNG exports, because the U.S. produces natural gas more responsibly and with fewer emissions than any LNG exporting country save Australia. However, despite the obvious fact that domestic gas has been a major driver of U.S. GHG emissions reductions and air quality improvements, the green cartels are trying to make the case that LNG exports will not do the same for other countries.

Also, serious questions surround the administration’s legal authority to issue such an all-encompassing, job-killing freeze in energy exports. Congress has not authorized the DOE to take such drastic actions, which would have implications both inside and outside our borders. It is also absurd that the Natural Gas Act, a relic of 1930s-era policymaking, gives the DOE power to deny imports and exports, outside the bounds of trade agreements. States need to take the administration to the courts over this decision, and fortunately, many are already expressing a willingness to do so.

This LNG export ban may be the most strong-armed, authoritative action against American energy producers taken by an administration that has become known for such transgressions. Luckily, Congress is already working to reverse this massive mistake by advancing a bipartisan bill, Unlocking our Domestic LNG Potential Act.

It’s notable when President Biden’s anti-energy policies become so extreme that they elicit condemnations from members of his own party. By rolling back this executive action and ensuring the president cannot have unilateral control over vital energy production and exports, Congress would take a significant step to secure American energy leadership now and for years to come.

*This article was originally published by RealClearEnergy and made available via RealClearWire.*



"HOW'S BIDEN EXPECT TO STOP THE WAR IN THE MIDEAST WHEN HE CAN'T STOP THE ONE HERE?"

Shelter grants can be made available

Many of my articles are on types of book reports or include my research, and this column on homelessness will be an example of this.

I recently met Martha Are of the Homeless Services Network (HSN) of Central Florida to discuss ideas of how to open a shelter in the Apopka area with a large tranche of federal dollars the county received as mitigation dollars for recent hurricanes. I will share some statistics from her organization and an insightful review of an article entitled, “A Tale of Two Tent Cities; the Critical Role of Housing Engagement in

County Commissioner  
District 2



Christine Moore

Addressing Homeless Encampments,” published in the Georgetown Journal on Poverty Law and Policy from Spring of 2023.

The Homeless Services Network leads Central Florida’s efforts to house people experiencing homelessness and to help them remain housed. They run

a centralized intake system through the region and help draw down millions of dollars in federal funding for homeless housing. They partner with dozens of nonprofit agencies and local government partners to coordinate outreach, emergency shelters, transitional housing, and other resources. Martha is assisting me with the shelter grant opportunity. It will be challenging, and I ask your prayers for success.

Just in 2023, the HSN launched an \$8.4-million initiative to help prevent and end homelessness

See MOORE Page 4A

UF to announce acceptances Feb. 23

Though many seniors have already received most of their college acceptance decisions by this time of year, students who applied to the University of Florida had to wait until this Friday to get that decision.

If this year is anything like recent years, I’m afraid many students will end up disappointed since UF has become increasingly difficult to get into. For example, last year the students who were accepted had an average GPA between 4.4 – 4.6 (UF’s weighted recalculation), SAT scores between 1340-1490 or an ACT score between 30-34.

The University of Florida is not alone in our state for being difficult to get into. Florida State University and University of Cen-

Orange County School  
Board, District 7



Melissa Byrd

tral Florida are increasingly difficult as well. As we face this reality, it’s important to remember that entering a four-year university as a freshman right after graduation is not the only way to a successful future.

This is the message I try to share with parents and high school students every day. There are many paths to success and the mentality that a student is only successful if they go

to a university at age 18 is one that is past its prime. The conversation has shifted and it’s time for parents to get on board.

Two years ago, my own daughter found herself sitting with a denial letter from her dream school, FSU. Even as a child who had received many private college acceptances, our state university did not accept her high GPA, high ACT score and winning national debate record. For a smart, driven kid, this was a hard pill to swallow.

But she found solace in the fact that she wasn’t alone, as several of her friends didn’t get the acceptance they were after. So, she changed her per-

See BYRD Page 4A

This Week In God’s Word

Jesus replied, “Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them.”  
John 14:23

Mema Says

The art of being wise is knowing what to overlook.

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God has created each one to be different, but to be treated the same

Editor’s note: Reprinted from February 2023 – February 12 and February 22 are the birthdays of two of our greatest presidents and this is Black History month.

I kept my children home from school on the day we designated to celebrate our presidents and their efforts to exalt our nation and its people. They called Monday a “Hurricane makeup” day, but it started me to thinking, didn’t we have other days that could have been used



Ike Hayden

also for makeup days? Since when did one holiday deserve more prestige than another?

I kept my kids home and asked them questions on the first five presidents,

after I gave them time to study for the test. The final question was, which four presidents are on Mount Rushmore? I wanted them to know the importance of why we celebrate Presidents’ Day. We just celebrated Dr. Martin Luther King Day, and our kids stayed home for that holiday. When was that holiday elevated to a higher position than that of our presidents?

I love Dr. King’s preaching, his leadership for civil rights, his desire

for all people to be united under the banner of Christ and the Word of GOD, but he would not consider himself to be above anyone, nor would he consider his day to be more important than our Presidents’ Day. Our nation is being divided by those who want to see us enslaved under the banner of Globalization. When we are separated by race, gender, or anything else, we are easily led into our own demise. We become complacent and obedient to our master’s will. We feed from

the trough of the one who, at the end, will be the one to slaughter us for their use.

Since when do we have to identify our friends and neighbors by their race. My neighborhood is filled with people I call friends. Not black, white, brown; they are my friends! Years ago, we were united by one name: Americans. Even today, when overseas we are known as Americans. No color or race, just Americans.

We need to take back our nation and our values.

We need to recognize Dr. Martin Luther King’s legacy and start judging by the character of people, and not the color of their skin.

This woke, race-baiting, sexist, people-hating agenda needs to be done away with. I am going to be who I want to be, and if it offends you, it is your problem not mine.

I wake up in the morning and I make my mind up as to what I want to present to the world. I choose

See HAYDEN Page 4A



# AHS alum promoted to rank of major

Jeff Blackman, graduate of Apopka High School Class of 2002, celebrated his promotion to major in the U.S. Army Reserve in a ceremony on January 29 at Camp Humphreys in South Korea.

Major Blackman has been stationed as an Active Guard and Reserve (AGR) officer with the 658 Regional Support Group (RSG) in Korea since September 2021.

A member of the 2001 Apopka High School State Champion Football Team, Major Blackman enlisted in the Army in the fall of 2002, serving five years as an Active Duty Soldier before he transitioned into the Army Reserve in 2007. He was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in 2011. He was selected for the Army Reserve AGR program in 2014, where he serves full-time in support of Army Reserve units. The 658 RSG is one of only two Army Reserve units permanently stationed in South Korea,



Photo courtesy of Sharon Blackman

Jeff Blackman of Apopka is pinned to the rank of major in the U.S. Army Reserve by his wife Tyler King and Colonel Tommie Frisbie, commander of the 658 Regional Support Group, in a promotion ceremony at Camp Humphreys in South Korea on January 29.

and supports soldiers located in Korea, Guam, Saipan, Alaska, American Samoa, and Hawaii.

This summer, Major Blackman will attend the Intermediate Level Education class at Command and General Staff School, located in Fort Leavenworth, Kan.

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Friday, 5 PM – 11 PM  
Saturday, 2 PM – 11 PM  
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## Hayden: We each make nation strong

*Continued from page 2A*

to laugh, love, sing, and be an encourager of people. I want people to see the joy of living in a free nation in my actions, and in my life-style. Is our nation perfect? Not by a long shot, but we can influence change by being what we know to be right, doing what needs to be done, and not bowing to the god of popular demand.

I want to be ME, not who someone else thinks I should be. As Americans, we have always celebrated our own sovereignty and

our willingness to recognize other people's sovereignty, working together to accomplish what the rest of the world struggles with. We join ourselves together as different people with a common goal and that allows our differences to work forming a nation of strength, compassion, freedom, and liberties that are GOD given and protected by our Constitution.

We need to awaken the "sleeping giant," not for conflict outside our shores, but for the conflict that is vying for the very soul of

our nation. Our nation is so great that even those who hate her will not leave! I love America and Americans.

I hate to keep harping on the message of standing up for America, but we can make our nation beautiful, prosperous, respected, and proud again just by being Americans, and that includes going about our daily lives promoting one another, encouraging one another, and being a friend to all by celebrating the fact of our unity in diversity.

E Pluribus Unum.

## Moore: Expense is biggest problem

*Continued from page 2A*

among 1- to 24-year-olds. The effort included housing, educational support, career training, and mental and physical healthcare. They also coordinated shelter and transportation during freeze warnings and distributed cooling supplies during the record-breaking summer heat. 99 percent of their funding goes to help people get stable housing.

Many of you have been reading about a bill in the state legislature to force municipalities without any funding to create homeless camps. This "book report" will discuss this method of dealing with homeless persons and make recommendations for more productive strategies.

In "A Tale of Two Tent Cities," the authors state, "Local governments have essentially three choices in responding to the presence of homeless encampments:"

1) They can adopt a law enforcement approach forcing individuals to move their camps on pain of arrest for trespassing.

This method does not solve the problem of people

without homes, and a recent court decision limits the ability of government to pursue it unless there is adequate space in a shelter. We have read about this in the case of Altamonte Springs.

2) A municipality can adopt an "out-of-sight, out-of-mind" approach, designating a specified area where homeless individuals are permitted to camp. The article delineates several examples of this from Gainesville. The camps can be a petri dish for crime, drug abuse, sexual abuse, and more. The cost of law enforcement's daily trips to referee are also substantial. This is the process the legislature is currently proposing.

3) The third choice is a housing engagement approach designed to get people out of homelessness and into housing. It substantially reduces the hidden costs of tent cities, encampments, and promotes a pro-social, well-regulated environment. However, it takes a truly organized and committed local government.

If I can find the time to write more about the

Gainesville camps examples, I will. I currently believe we need to fund the capital costs for a shelter replete with the HSN management systems and require the three new approved affordable housing projects in northwest Orange County to rent to a number of these homeless. If the municipality begins to take in more than their fair share from nearby counties and jurisdictions, they can always resort to option number one. I do believe we can manage to find some affordable housing options for homeless persons. Most of the homeless persons have some sort of funding, albeit Medicaid, Medicare, or Disability and can pay some amount of rent.

I'm terribly concerned when we see one-third of the homeless in our area being women with young children. The cost of doing nothing is too great, and with the state legislature knocking at our door to establish "camps," building a shelter and finding housing options sure seems superior.

I would love to hear your thoughts.

### CORRECTION:

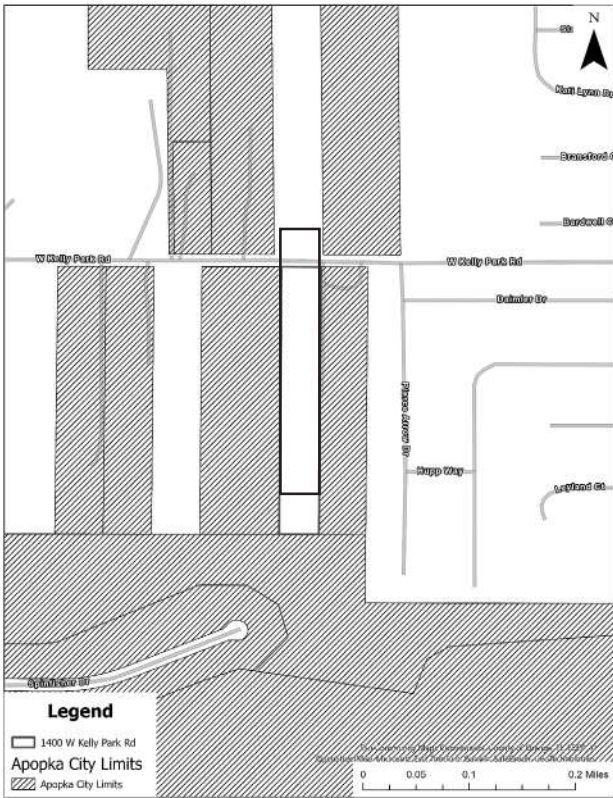
Unintentional errors were published in *The Apopka Chief* on Friday, February 16, in the Letter to the Editor. The spelling correction is for Nadia Anderson, who is running for Seat 3. Darryl Richardson is also running for Seat 3, not Seat 4 as published. Nick Nesta is running as an incumbent for Seat 4 not as an incumbent for Seat 3 as published. Eric Mock is also running for Seat 4. We apologize for any inconvenience our errors may have caused.

John E. Ricketson, Publisher

## PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE ANNEXATION CITY OF APOPKA

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to Florida Statutes 171.044, the Apopka Code of Ordinances, Part III, Land Development Code, Article II, Section 2.5.1.A, that **Jose Chaves** has made an application to the City of Apopka City Council for an **ANNEXATION** of a property located at 1400 W Kelly Park Road. This application relates to the following described property:

**ORDINANCE NO. 3043**  
**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF APOPKA, FLORIDA, TO EXTEND ITS TERRITORIAL AND MUNICIPAL LIMITS TO ANNEX PURSUANT TO FLORIDA STATUTE 171.044 THE HEREINAFTER DESCRIBED LANDS SITUATED AND BEING IN ORANGE COUNTY, FLORIDA, OWNED BY MICHAEL A GENTLES; LOCATED AT 1400 W KELLY PARK ROAD, COMPRISING 5.06 ACRES, MORE OR LESS; PROVIDING FOR DIRECTIONS TO THE CITY CLERK, SEVERABILITY, CONFLICTS, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**



Parcel Identification Number(s): 17-20-28-0000-00-008  
Contains: 5.06 +/- acres

NOTICE is given that public hearings for **Ordinance No. 3043** will be held by the **City of Apopka City Council** at its regularly scheduled meetings in the City Council Chambers of the Apopka City Hall, 120 E. Main Street, Apopka, Florida on **Wednesday, March 6, 2024 beginning at 1:30 P.M** AND **Wednesday, March 20, 2024 at 7:00 P.M.**

Affected parties and the public may appear at the above listed hearings to speak. The proposed Annexation can be inspected at the Apopka Community Development Department located at Apopka City Hall on weekdays between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. City Hall address shown below. Please be advised that, under State law, if you decide to appeal a decision made with respect to this matter, you will need a record of the proceedings and may need to ensure that a verbatim record is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), persons with disabilities needing assistance to participate in any of these proceedings should contact the City Clerk's Office at 120 East Main Street, Apopka FL 32703, Telephone: 407-703-1704, no less than 48 hours prior to the proceeding.

Apopka City Council  
Apopka Planning Commission  
Community Development Department

February 23, 2024  
Publish: The Apopka Chief

175852

## Byrd: Explore careers and schools

*Continued from page 2A*

spective and decided to go to Tallahassee anyway and start at Tallahassee Community College and then transfer to FSU.

She spent a year at TCC finishing her AA and is now a student at FSU pursuing a double major and when she gets those degrees from FSU, nowhere on it will it say she started at a state college. In fact, she was glad she started there because she had smaller classes and her professors were very accessible to her. She had a great transition to college by going this route after all.

Our local state schools like Seminole State and Valencia are fantastic schools. These are great places for our young people to start before heading to a large university environment. As adults, we have to make it okay and not only celebrate those big school acceptances, but celebrate kids that make the best decision for their own situation.

I would also strongly encourage parents and students to remember that you only have one childhood and it's important to keep balance as we work towards our goals. So many times I see high school kids that are literally making themselves sick working on achieving 4.5+ GPAs, being involved in club/sport practice every night, putting in hours of homework after that and having no free time to enjoy being a kid. I'm seeing more and more kids sick, suffering from panic attacks, and not socializing with friends at all.

It's time for us to reevaluate how we

want our kids to live and it's time for us to reevaluate the message we are sending our young people. Let's not only tell them that it is more than okay to start post-secondary education at a state college but that it is actually a great way to start.

Let's expose them to all the great careers out there that don't require a four-year degree that they can begin training for while they are in high school through Orange Technical College. Careers like hospitality, culinary, human services, veterinary technician, nursing, construction trades and many more. Many of these programs students can dual enroll for while in high school and OCPs will bus the students from the high school to the technical college and many of them can be taken at the high school.

I come from a home with a father who was a general contractor. He had no college degree but owned a very successful building construction company in Orlando for many years. He built us a beautiful home and was able to send his children to college debt free with this career. I'm a big believer that a four-year university is not the only way to success.

Let's continue to spread this message to our kids, let's let them be kids, and let's celebrate every child who has a goal and finds the path that is right for them to achieve that goal. Congratulations to all the seniors who have set a goal for their future and are ready to make the next step towards that goal, no matter what that next step is!

## Everybody has an opinion. Why not share yours?

### Send a letter to the Editor online [www.theapopkachief.com](http://www.theapopkachief.com)

## ALL ABOUT APOPKA

### The Apopka Chief

Established 1923  
(USPS 545-440)

The Apopka Chief is published every Friday and entered as Periodicals, postage paid at Apopka Post Office, under the Act of Congress of March 3, 1879. The Apopka Chief newspaper is published by Foliage Enterprises, Inc., every Friday at 400 North Park Avenue, Apopka, Fla., 32712-3417. An annual subscription is \$25 in Orange County and \$30 outside Orange County. Phone 407-886-2777. Postmaster: Send address changes to The Apopka Chief, P.O. Box 880, Apopka, Fla., 32704-0880.

The Apopka Chief is a consistent award-winning community weekly newspaper and a member of the Florida Press Association. The newspaper won the group's award as its best newspaper in 1982, 1987, and 1988, the only three-time winner. Letters to the editor are welcome, but must be signed and include a daytime telephone number, address, or email address for verification. Management reserves the right to edit letters.

[www.theapopkachief.com](http://www.theapopkachief.com), [news@theapopkachief.com](mailto:news@theapopkachief.com)



### City of Apopka Telephone Numbers

City Hall 407-703-1700  
Mayor's Office 407-703-1701  
City Administrator 407-703-1649  
City Clerk 407-703-1704  
Community Devel. 407-703-1712  
Code Enforcement 407-703-1738  
Finance Dept. 407-703-1725  
Fire (non-emerg.) 407-703-1756  
Parks and Rec. Dept. 407-703-1741  
Police Chief 407-703-1769  
Police (non-emerg.) 407-703-1771  
Job Line 407-703-1743  
Solid Waste Collect. 407-703-1731  
Street Maintenance 407-703-1731  
Utility Billing 407-703-1727  
Medical, fire emergency 911  
The city of Apopka was chartered in 1882. It is located at 28°30 north latitude and is 150 feet above sea level. Its population is about 48,000 and its total area is more than 30 sq. mi. **www.apopka.net**

### Orange County Telephone Numbers

Animal Services 407-836-3111  
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Building Dept. 407-836-8550  
County Mayor 407-836-7370  
County Commission 407-836-7350  
County Attorney 407-836-7320  
Clerk of the Court 407-836-2065  
Elections Supervisor 407-836-2070  
Fire/Rescue 407-836-3111  
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Sheriff Administrative 407-254-7000  
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Utilities 407-836-5515  
All other departments 407-836-3111  
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**www.orangecountyfl.net**

### Other Area Numbers of Note

**U.S. Senators**  
Rick Scott (Rep.) 202-224-5274  
Marco Rubio (Rep.) 407-254-2573  
**U.S. Representative**  
Daniel Webster (Dist. 11) 352-241-9220  
**State Representatives**  
Doug Bankson 407-476-6787  
Carolina Amesty (Dist. 45) unknown  
**State Senators**  
Geraldine Thompson (Dist. 11) 407-297-2045  
**Orange County Commissioner**  
Christine Moore 407-836-7350  
**Orange County Public Schools**  
Pupil assignment 407-317-3233  
Bus routes 407-317-3800  
Superintendent 407-317-3200  
School Board 407-317-3200  
**Miscellaneous**  
The Apopka Chief 407-886-2777  
Museum of the Apopkans 407-703-1707  
Chamber of Commerce 407-886-1441



# City: Only one proposal was received in January bid request

*Continued from page 1A*

town Apopka. The event space would remain wholly owned and operated by the city of Apopka.

The proposal comes in response to the request for proposal (RFP) the city had advertised last month. The RFP sought plans for completing a multi-use project, including affordable housing, downtown public parking, and extension of the Downtown Apopka Trail, and construction of public event space. The city wants to retain about one acre of land, which the successful proposer would develop as a public event space. Standard Investments & Holdings was the only company to submit a bid.

"There are a few hurdles that do have to be taken care of in regard to the brownfields, which is actually in that location of the plaza itself," Jim Hitt, city community development director, said at the City Council meeting. "There are some different fund-

ing mechanisms and also different methods to take care of that, which usually is just considered what's commonly referred to as a cap. That's basically cement covering the polluted area. There are a couple of monitoring wells on the site right now. So those would basically be continued on city property that would remain as city property."

According to city documents, the proposal was reviewed and deemed consistent with the proposal request and property disposal requirements that the Apopka CRA and City Council approved on October 18, 2023.

The Apopka Station Street Project proposal and use of the site is consistent with the comprehensive plan which shows the site as commercial. The land development code for zoning is Mixed Use-Downtown (MU-D).

Both Land Use and Zoning permit multifamily developments and adhere to the Senate Bill 102, known

as the Live Local Act, to allow for a maximum of 25 dwelling units per acre for the apartment site area, according to city documents.

Resident Ace Woodham restated at the City Council meeting what he said at the CRA meeting, which was that the city should reconsider the project in a way that would give emergency vehicles easier access to the area. Woodham clarified that he's not against the project.

"I'm not against the project, but I think we'd need to think about emergency vehicles before we go any further with tying all that land up because y'all got trees planted in the middle of Central Avenue," he said. "You cut the corners off there, made them a very

See CITY Page 12A

## PHMSA Environmental Review Notice of Availability

In cooperation with the Lake Apopka Natural Gas District, Orange County, Florida, the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA), has prepared a Tier 2 Environmental Assessment (EA), as required by the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, for the proposed replacement of approximately 13.13 miles of vintage steel and vintage plastic polyethylene (PE) pipe in multiple areas of the system with modern polyethylene pipe. PHMSA published a Tier 1 Nationwide EA for the Natural Gas Distribution Infrastructure Safety and Modernization Grant Program (NGDISM) on November 9, 2022. The stated purpose of NGDISM is for municipality or community owned utilities to repair, rehabilitate, or replace its natural gas distribution pipeline system or portions thereof or to acquire equipment to (1) reduce incidents and fatalities and (2) avoid economic losses by providing grant opportunities to municipality or community owned utilities. The Tier 1 EA is available at <https://www.phmsa.dot.gov/sites/phmsa.dot.gov/files/2023-07/Tier-1-PHMSA-2022-0123-0001.pdf>. The Tier 2 EA is available for review and comment on the web at <https://www.phmsa.dot.gov/about-phmsa/working-phmsa/grants/pipeline/tier-2-site-specific-environmental-documents> and a copy is available at Lake Apopka Natural Gas District, 1320 Winter Garden Vineland Road, Winter Garden, FL 3478. Please submit all comments to: PHMSABILGrantNEPAComments@dot.gov and reference NGDISM-FY22-EA-2023-20 in your response. Pursuant to the National Historic Preservation Act, PHMSA has issued a No Historic Properties Affected finding which is available for review in the Tier 2 EA. Comments on the Tier 2 EA are due by March 11, 2024.



**Fri., February 23, 2024  
thru  
Sun., February 25, 2024**

**ORDINARY ANGELS** (PG) 1:00; 4:00; 7:00  
**DEMON SLAYER: KIMETSU NO YAIBA (DUB)** (NR) 4:20  
**DEMON SLAYER: KIMETSU NO YAIBA (SUB)** (NR) 1:10; 1:20; 7:10  
**GUADALUPE: MOTHER OF HUMANITY (SPANISH)** (NR) 12:50; 3:50; 7:30; 7:40\*  
**THE CHOSEN: SEASON 4 EPISODES 4-6** (NR) 12:20; 3:30; 6:30  
**BOB MARLEY: ONE LOVE** (PG-13) 12:40; 3:20; 4:40; 6:40; 7:30; 7:40  
**MADAME WEB** (PG-13) 1:30; 4:30; 7:20  
**ARGYLLE** (PG-13) 12:30; 3:40; 6:50  
**MIGRATION** (PG) 1:10; 2:00  
**KID: TROLLS** (PG) 11:50A  
**KID: KUNG FU PANDA** (PG) 11:20A

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# AdventHealth University inaugurates new president

In the presence of local and national dignitaries, students, alumni, and faculty today, AdventHealth University inaugurated C. Josef Ghosn as its third president and CEO.

"Today is a special day for me and for my family, but most importantly, this is an important moment for our students, who are at the heart of all we do," Dr. Ghosn shared with more than 500 guests at Forest Lake Seventh-day Adventist Church in Apopka on Thursday, February 15. "AHU is a very special place, where we have a unique opportunity to develop highly skilled

health professionals who will practice health care as a ministry and make a tremendous impact on the lives of patients and their families."

Dr. Ghosn, who joined AHU in May 2023, has extensive leadership experience in health care administration. Most recently, he served as vice president of strategic planning for AdventHealth's Multistate Division and prior to that, as AdventHealth Florida Division's senior vice president for strategic planning.

Dr. Ghosn was a tenured professor and associate dean of academic affairs at Atlantic Union Col-

lege. He also served as a professor of business and education at Southern Adventist University and as an adjunct professor of health-care administration at AdventHealth University.

Dr. Ghosn holds a doctoral degree in educational leadership from the University of Massachusetts Lowell and a master of business administration degree with a Healthcare Administration emphasis from Andrews University.

"This is a special milestone in the history of AdventHealth University," said Randy Haffner, president and CEO of AdventHealth Florida and chair

of AHU's Board of Trustees. "As we inaugurate Dr. C. Josef Ghosn, we begin a pivotal time in the life of this institution. New degrees and workforce certificates continue to be added, student enrollment is increasing, plans for expanding the current campuses are under way, and new campuses are being explored – ambitious growth plans to help our nation solve nurse and provider shortages. This means more caregivers can fulfill their calling to provide hope and healing and join a growing workforce specially trained in whole-person care."

AHU's former presi-



C. Josef Ghosn

dents are Edwin I. Hernandez and David Greenlaw.

As at many official university ceremonies, faculty and presenters donned regalia and a transfer of the mace and presidential medallion took place. Men-

tors, colleagues, and students provided words of hope, sharing stories from throughout Dr. Ghosn's career.

AdventHealth University, with campuses in Orlando and Denver, was founded in 1992 and has graduated more than 10,000 students who live the healing values of Christ locally and globally. Today, the university is poised for significant increase in student enrollment. It also maintains ambitious plans to begin expanding its Orlando campus footprint and open an additional Florida campus in the next 12 months.



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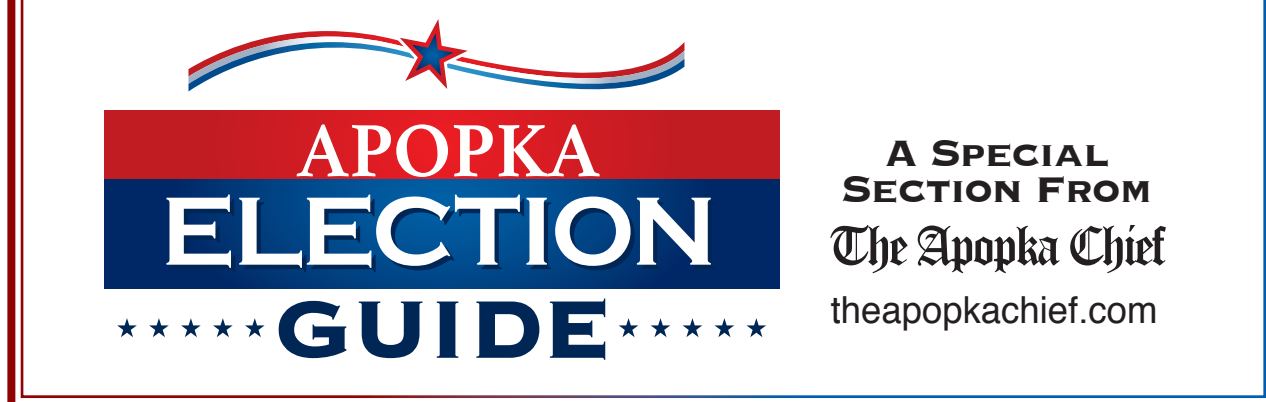
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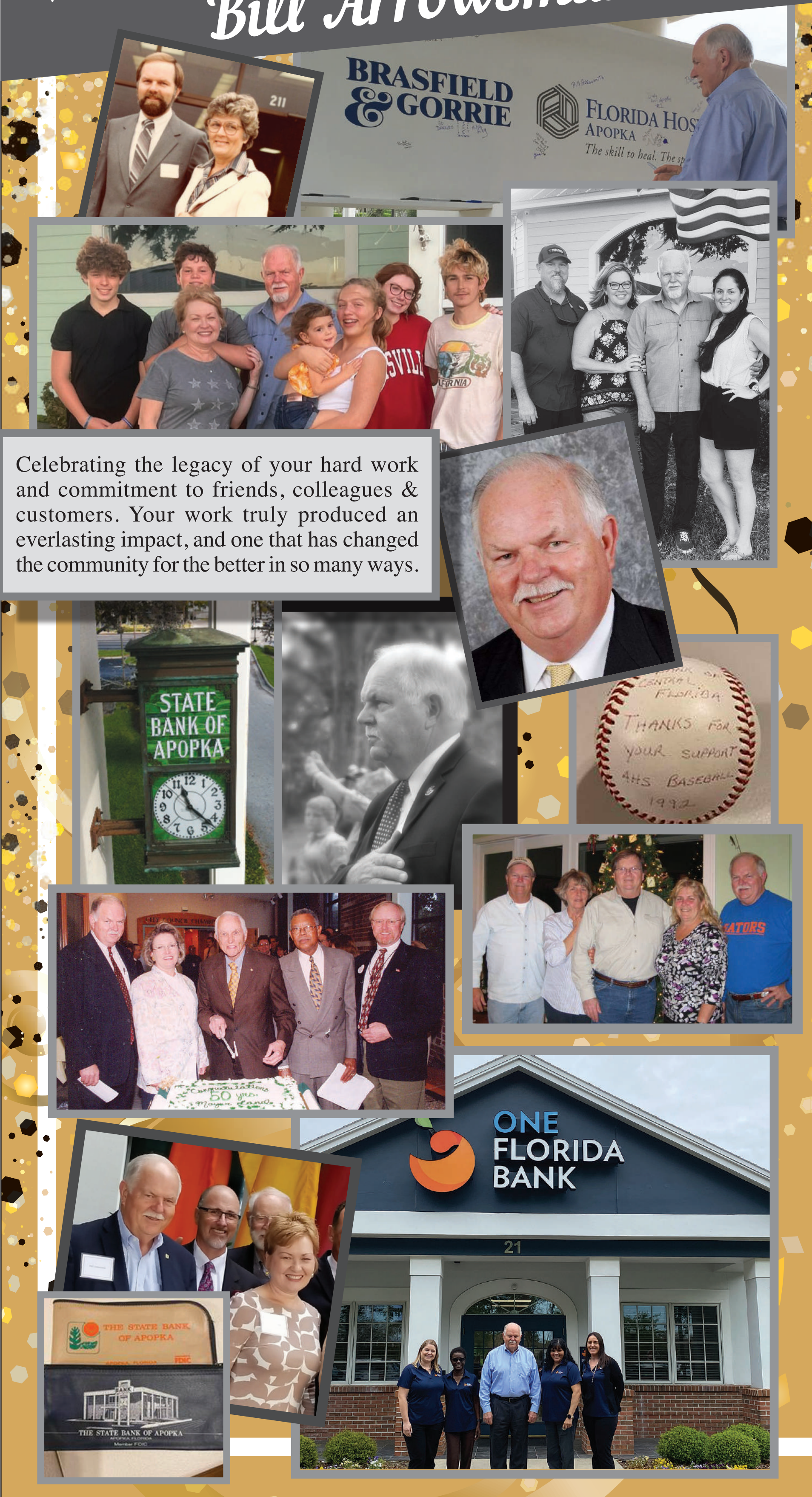


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## City to host Black History Month event

The city will host its Celebrating Legends of Apopka Black History Month event on Tuesday, February 27, from 6 -8 p.m. at the Apopka Community Center/VFW Building, 519 S. Central Ave., Apopka.

This event will include a special proclamation by Mayor Bryan Nelson, in honor of the 2024 Legends and their families, special music by Mark Wright and the Wekiva High School Chorus, and a reception for all attendees.

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## District will give Lake Apopka update

An update on the continuing restoration of Lake Apopka will take place at Harry P. Leu Gardens, 1920 North Forest Ave., Orlando, in the Camellia Room on Thursday, March 21, at 7 p.m.

Organized by Orange Audubon Society, the pre-

sentation will be given by Dr. Erich Marzolf, director of the District's Division of Water Resources for St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD). He has been actively involved in restoring Lake Apopka since 1996, when the State Legislature au-

thorized the District to purchase the farms to restore them to wetlands.

Vegetable farms, which were established on 20,000 acres that were formerly part of Lake Apopka, were purchased by the SJRWMD in the late 1980s and 1990s to restore water qual-

ity in the lake.

By halting nutrient inputs, restoring filtering marshes, removing bottom-feeding gizzard shad and other efforts over at least 20 years, the District has significantly improved the lake's water quality.

## Desk: Attorney played pivotal role in Groveland Four case

*Continued from page 1A*

will surely be inspired by this keepsake for decades to come."

Akerman was a prominent defense attorney who played a pivotal role in the legal proceedings of the Groveland Four case, one of the most notorious racial injustice cases in Florida's history.

Akerman was a member of the prestigious legal team led by Thurgood Marshall. Other lawyers on the team included Jack Green-

berg and Paul Perkins Sr.

The Groveland Four were African-American men wrongfully accused of sexually assaulting a white woman in Lake County in 1949. Akerman's dedication to justice led him to defend these men, despite the challenging circumstances of the time.

"Alexander Akerman Jr. was not just a defense attorney; he was a symbol of resilience and commitment to justice. His efforts in the Groveland Four case are etched in the leg-

acy of legal history," Brinkle said. "This desk will serve as a tangible reminder of the struggles for justice and equality. It's a connection to our past and an inspiration for the future legal minds that pass through these halls of the FAMU College of Law."

Akerman was considered a civil rights pioneer taking racially motivated legal cases that other attorneys would not touch.

He is also credited with filing the lawsuit for Virgil Hawkins against the

University of Florida for denying him entry.

Akerman also represented five additional students who hoped to integrate graduate and professional programs at the University of Florida.

As a result of the lawsuits, in December of 1949, the FAMU College of Law, College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, College of Engineering, and graduate program in Agriculture were created.

## Art: Categories range from 2D to jewelry

*Continued from page 1A*

plications.

**Entry Categories**

**Fine Art – 2-Dimensional:**

Painting, Drawing, Pastel, Printmaking, Mixed Media, Photography

**Fine Art – 3-Dimensional:** Ornamental Pottery, Sculpture, Glassware, Stained Glass, Mixed Media

**Fine Handcraft:** Functional Pot-

tery, Precious Metal / Gem Jewelry, Intricate Woodworking, Hand-woven

**Creative Crafts:** Costume Jewelry, Clothing, Accessories Woodwork, Metalwork, Glass and China Art, Leatherwork, Candles

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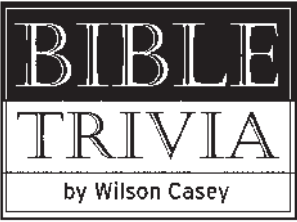
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# Dry ground appears during creation

1. Is the book of 1 Peter (KJV) in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. What was a god of the Philistines that had a man's face and hands, but the body and tail of a fish? Bullock, Elohim, Dagon, Baal-gad
3. Who slew a giant that had six fingers on each hand and six toes on each



foot when he defied Israel? Sibbechai, Cyrus, Silas, Jonathan

4. From Proverbs 22, what is a good name better

than? Great riches, Scorn, Its own reward, Lust  
5. What town was home to Jesse's boys? Gilgal, Jericho, Hebron, Bethlehem  
6. On which day of creation did dry ground appear? Second, Third, Fourth, Fifth

ANSWERS: 1) New, 2) Dagon, 3) Jonathan, 4)

Great riches, 5) Bethlehem, 6) Third  
"Test Your Bible Knowledge," a book with 1,206 multiple-choice questions by columnist Wilson Casey, is available in stores and online.

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# An Honest Prayer

There are lots of ways we can pray. Sometimes we recite a prayer that we've been saying since we were practically on our mother's laps; the Lord's prayer is one that most of us know from our childhood.

Other times, we say a spontaneous prayer about whatever comes to mind. A prayer of gratitude for a beautiful day can sometimes just flow out of us because of an abundance of joy. There is an exuberance that springs from simply being in the world.

But there are also times when we just don't feel like praying,

and even then, we can offer up a prayer that reflects this, asking God to deliver us from our spiritual boredom or cantankerousness.

The Psalms are in essence prayers, and many of them reflect the honest feelings of the psalmist, including despair, anger, and even a desire to see one's enemies destroyed.

There's no reason to feel guilty about occasionally wanting to curse or otherwise say something that isn't kind or charitable.

An honest prayer is always acceptable to God. There is little doubt that He has heard worse.

- Christopher Simon

But those who wait on the Lord Shall renew their strength; They shall mount up with wings like eagles, They shall run and not be weary, They shall walk and not faint. Isaiah 40:31

**In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.**  
Matthew 5:16

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Proverbs 14:26

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Wisdom is the principal thing; Therefore get wisdom. And in all your getting, get understanding. Proverbs 4:7

But those who wait on the Lord Shall renew their strength; They shall mount up with wings like eagles, They shall run and not be weary, They shall walk and not faint. Isaiah 40:31

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Members of the Orange County Sheriff's Office and several of its community partners in law enforcement surprised Noah, a Clay Springs Elementary School student, with a special parade on his ninth birthday, which was Sunday, February 18. Noah has been fighting a recently discovered brain tumor. Having undergone his third round of chemotherapy so far, Noah showed a determination that he would not let his daily battle interrupt his birthday. Noah was joined by his family, friends, teachers, School Resource Officer, and several first responders to wish him well on his special day.



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2/24





# Chief Junior



## Anniversary, raising money, book fair, student writers are successful



### Third grade

Ms. Pell wants to share some events with you people out there. Something successful for Ms. Pell this year was starting the year with her new students. Ms. Pell's students are learning about vocabulary and text structure. For writing, third graders are learning how to add evidence. When some of Ms.

Pell students don't understand the lesson, she does small groups. Her students are using strategies to help with decoding and underlining evidence. Ms. Pell class is reading interesting stories about animals and inventions. A big challenge for Ms. Pell is getting kids to prove their answers in stories and getting homework done. She would advise parents to read more with their kids. She would like to give Mrs. Pugsley and Ms. Rispoli a thank you for being the best reading partners.

By Jacob Occenat

### Fourth grade

Mrs. Glass is working on building better relationships with her classes. She is finding this very suc-

cessful. In math, her classes are learning operating with fractions and in science they are wrapping up energy C.M.E.L.T.S. This stands for Chemical, Mechanical, Electrical, Light, Thermal, and Sound Energy. If one of her students does not understand a lesson, they work in small groups. She reteaches and makes fun Bookets, Jeopardy, and Gimkits. Some challenges to teaching are different schedules, interventions and not enough time for programs. She wants parents to keep on trying to help them problem solve. She wants to thank Mrs. Griffith for the great support.

By Brayleigh Wade

### Fifth grade

Mrs Bernoski is a new

reading and writing teacher. Her scholars are learning about poetry and figurative language. Mrs Bernoski is teaching students to determine if a text is informing, entertaining or persuading you. When Mr. Bernoski's students do not understand the lesson, she makes sure to work one by one to help them. Her students are reading an interesting story called "How do I Hold the Summer?" Her students are practicing by playing games on the computer. Her advice to parents is to make sure students stay active in learning. Mrs. Bernoski would like to give a shout out to Mrs. D for helping her students get in line.

By Edileen Laboy

### Upcoming events

February 28: NEHS Induction Ceremony  
February 29: Wax Museum/Talent Show  
February 29: Dramatic ED Black History Show 6:00 p.m.

March 1: House Celebration  
March 7: FAST night/BHM walkthrough

By Danielle Limage

The Dream Lake Journalism Club is made up of fifth grade students.

## Students give back



Every year, the Girls on the Run club does a special project to help their community. This year, Girls on the Run decided to raise money for the First United Methodist Church. The First United Methodist Church feeds homeless people every Wednesday. Each Wednesday, any homeless citizen can come down to the church and get fed dinner. Sometimes the church runs out of food, so this year Girls on the Run decided to help them. They did a fundraiser at school to help! and raised \$225! Not only did we give the money to the church, we also went one Wednesday and helped feed the homeless. I felt proud of myself being able to help this cause. I hope many of you are inspired by us and will try to help out your community, too.

By L. Houvouras



Congratulations to the DLE Jedi Scientists! They had seven wins in December 2023: First Place: Egg Drop, First Place: STEM Poster, Second Place: Balsa Bridge, Third Place: Balsa Bridge, Second Place: Junior Solar Innovation, Third Place: Junior Solar Car Design, and Third Place: Mousetrap Car.



When the DLE Jedi Scientists met on February 10, they had three wins. The DLE Jedi Scientists placed first and second place in egg drop and third place in balsa bridge. Mrs. Clowers is so proud of her scholars.



Our Wildcats are focused and ready to work hard to improve those mid-year scores. We have talked with students about what their strengths are and what are areas for im-

provement. One of the best things for all of our students is for them to read for at least 10 minutes every night. Find books and texts students enjoy reading. Reading can take us on many adventures. Happy Reading Everyone!

We will have our Literati Book Fair on Friday, February 23, 8:45 a.m. to 3 p.m. The Book Fair will also be open on Monday, February 26, Tuesday the 27th, and Thursday, the 29th from 8:45 a.m. to 3 p.m. Students and

families can also visit the Book Fair during our Black History Celebration.

Our Black History Family Night Celebration will be on Thursday, February 29, at 5:30-7:00 p.m. There will be 4 stations to rotate through. Dinner will be provided and there will be performances by PreK, Kg, first and second grade. There will also be Wax Museum style presentations by third through fifth grade throughout the evening. We hope you will join us!

Here at Lovell Elementary, we are truly grateful for our bus drivers! Thank you! Happy Bus Driver Appreciation Day, February 22.

PTA's next meeting will be on March 5 from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.

Lovell Up Monday will be on March 4. Wear your favorite game shirt and jeans to show your support in being ALL IN this year.

Keep an eye out for information on our Field Day, which is on March 14.



### 50th anniversary

Trinity Christian School and Trinity Baptist Church held a special service and celebration to commemorate the 50 years Trinity Christian School has served families in the Apopka community.

The service included music performances by the TCS band and secondary chorus.

Jeff Keaton spoke on "Six Reasons Why We Must Give our Children and Grandchildren A Bib-

lical World View." Following a light luncheon, the video "Telling Trinity Christian School's Story for God's Glory" was shown. Presentations were made to the past school administrators for "Lighting the Way" by fol-

lowing the Lord's guidance and direction in founding the school.

Included in the celebration was a time of fellowship as well as an opportunity to view school memorabilia, yearbooks, and photos.

### School registration

Registration is open for the 2024-25 school year.

For more information or to schedule a tour, call the school office at 407-886-0212.



### Junior, Senior Beta Conventions

"Beta-A Voyage of Adventure" was the theme for the 32nd annual Florida Junior and Senior Beta Conventions held at the Gaylord Palms Resort in Orlando. This convention allows students the opportunity to compete in various academ-

ic and STEM-based, and performing arts competitions. These victories at the state level provide an opportunity to compete at the national level in the summer of 2024.

Jr. Beta Club received third place in the Three-Dimensional Design category and top five in the Songfest competition. Chloe Few-

less was awarded third place in sixth-grade language arts and Adalynn Merkle received third place in Recyclable Art. Sr. Beta Club member Lauren Johnson received a second-place award in the science academic competition.

Elementary Beta Club received several club



awards: second place in portfolio, second place in service learning, first place in engineering (Skyler Smothers, Ethan Runyon, Kris Donawa, Luna Matias, Audriana Camargo), and first place in musicology (Miranda Heath, Tessa Schanne, Baylee Payne, Skyler Smothers). In the visual arts cat-

egory, Christian Lechuga received second place in sculpture and Ethan Runyon received first place in black and white photography. In academics, Troy Risner placed third in fourth grade social studies, Ethan Runyon placed third in fifth grade science, Eliana Claudio placed second in fourth

grade Spanish and Luna Matias received third place in fifth grade Spanish.

At the closing session, sponsors Mrs. Edie Bentley, Mrs. Beverly Lunneen, and Mrs. Cindy Skeen were presented with the John W. Harris Educator of Excellence Award.

### Contest, award winners

Grade level winners at Trinity have been announced in the Zaner-Bloser National Handwriting Contest: kindergarten, Naomi Celestin; first grade, Kristopher Shumert; second grade, Kali Dangerfield; third grade, Alexa Bigelow; fourth grade, Andi Hall; fifth grade, Skyler Smothers; and sixth grade, Autumn Walker. These entries will now go on to be judged at the regional level.

Elementary students received awards for Principal's List, Honor Roll, Citizenship, and Accelerated Reading at the second quarter awards program held during chapel on January 12.

In the first through fifth grade classes, students passed 3,637 AR quizzes and earned 2,446 points. Sixty-two students met or exceeded their goal while maintaining a 90

percent or higher average in comprehension and earned an Amazing Accelerated Reading Award. Miss R. Nichols' second grade class and Mrs. A. Tahner's third grade class had every student in their class meet or exceed their point goal second quarter.

An award ceremony was held for secondary students on January 17. They passed 146 AR quizzes and earned 936 points.

Seventeen students met or exceeded their AR goal while maintaining a 90 percent or higher average in comprehension and earned an Amazing Accelerated Reading Award.

Six secondary students earned 100 percent on every AR test taken second quarter.

Each semester, teachers in grades 1-5 nominate a student to receive the Carol Hittel Reading



Award. The following students were honored January 26, at the Carol Hittel Reading Award Celebration: first graders Emery, Kristopher, and Shalanie, second grader

Naele, third grader Isabella, fourth grader Thomas, and fifth grader Miranda. The recipients received gift bags with books, prizes, and gift cards.

Miss Jean Nichols was presented with an award by Mr. Bill Hittel and Mrs. Beverly Smith for her 20 years of dedication to the Hittel Reading Program.



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## City: CRA budget is currently \$4.2 M

Continued from page 5A

sharp turn. I think you need to really look at that for it goes much further than that.”

Now that the Station Street Project proposal was accepted, the next step of reviewing and formally approving the development agreement would be scheduled for the CRA and City Council to do at separate

meetings on March 6.

The major development plan approvals will be completed in accordance with the city land development code and approved by the Apopka Planning Commission and City Council later this year. The construction site plan is completed and approved by the Development Review Committee in accordance with the land development code.

Located downtown, the Apopka CRA is comprised of 644 acres that has a mix of residences, businesses and historic properties. The CRA is bound on the south by Tenth and 11th Streets, Hawthorne Avenue to the west, Oak Street to the north; and sections of multiple streets to the east including but not limited to Highland Avenue, Monroe Avenue and Alabama Avenue.

The Apopka Community Redevelopment Agency Board directs the agency. The board is comprised of the Apopka City Council, an Orange County Board of County Commissioners representative, and other individuals appointed by the local government.

In August 2023, the Apopka CRA Board approved its fiscal year 2024 budget worth \$4.2 million.

## Orange County unveils plan to rid traffic fatalities by 2040

Each year, more than 42,000 people are killed on American streets, and thousands more are injured. In 2022, there were 209 fatalities and 1,208 severe injuries on Orange County roadways, as the Orange-Kissimmee-Sanford metro area continues to rank as one of the deadliest regions in the United States.

In 2022, the Orange County Board of County Commissioners voted to adopt a resolution to develop a Vision Zero Action Plan to eliminate all traffic fatalities and severe injuries by the year 2040 while also increasing safe, healthy, equitable mobility for all. First implemented in Sweden in the 1990s, Vision Zero has proved successful across Europe and is now gaining momentum in American cities.

The Orange County Vision Zero Action Plan is part of a regional effort by MetroPlan Orlando to reduce traffic fatalities and severe injuries, creating safer roads for both the 2.2 million residents and 75 million tourists who visit the region annually.

Coordinated Vision Zero Action Plans will be created for cities and counties throughout the region, made possible by a \$3.8 million federal Safe Streets for All (SS4A) grant.

“Safety is important to everyone, and

transportation and infrastructure create the means for the community to connect,” Humberto Castellero, Traffic Engineering Division Manager, Orange County Public Works, was quoted as saying in a press release. “We’re designing roads and educating people to ensure we have a holistic transportation system that enhances quality of life for all residents.”

While waiting for the plan to be finalized, Orange County Mayor Jerry L. Demings and county commissioners passed an Accelerated Transportation Safety Program, allocating \$100 million to implement traffic safety improvement projects that enhance sidewalks, lighting, speed management, pedestrian safety, access management and traffic calming.

Vision Zero recognizes that people sometimes make mistakes, so road systems and related policies should be designed to make sure human error doesn’t result in severe injuries or fatalities. As such, system designers and policymakers are expected to improve the roadway environment, policies and other related systems to lessen the severity of crashes.

Visit [tinyurl.com/yuxwt6w](https://tinyurl.com/yuxwt6w) for more information.

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### SUDOKU ANSWERS

PUZZLE CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 4B

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 5 | 3 | 8 | 7 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 6 | 9 |
| 9 | 4 | 1 | 3 | 6 | 8 | 5 | 2 | 7 |
| 6 | 7 | 2 | 5 | 9 | 1 | 4 | 8 | 3 |
| 8 | 6 | 4 | 1 | 3 | 7 | 9 | 5 | 2 |
| 3 | 1 | 9 | 2 | 5 | 6 | 8 | 7 | 4 |
| 2 | 5 | 7 | 9 | 8 | 4 | 3 | 1 | 6 |
| 7 | 9 | 3 | 6 | 1 | 5 | 2 | 4 | 8 |
| 4 | 2 | 5 | 8 | 7 | 9 | 6 | 3 | 1 |
| 1 | 8 | 6 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 7 | 9 | 5 |

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## Puzzle Solution

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
|   |   |   | M | A | F | A |   | S | A | P | O | R |   |   |   |
|   | A | S | Y | L | U | M |   | C | I | R | R | U | S |   |   |
|   | R | E | G | E | N | E | R | A | T | O | R |   | P | E |   |
| A | D | C |   |   |   |   | B | I | B |   | S | I | R | E | N |
| P | E | R |   |   |   | R | A | B | B | I |   | S | A | C | S |
| R | B | E |   |   | P | E | S |   | Y | A | M |   | T | I | U |
|   |   | T | U | R | F |   |   |   | N | O | S | I | E | R |   |
| L | H | A | S | A |   |   |   |   |   | A | R | O | S | E |   |
| E | A | R | T | H | Y |   |   |   | A | N | O | N |   |   |   |
| S | R | I |   | A | A | R |   | R | M | S |   | A | R | A |   |
| L | E | A | H |   | P | A | R | E | U |   |   |   | L | A | C |
| E | L | L | A | S |   | P | I | N |   |   |   |   | I | C | E |
| Y | I |   | N | A | T | I | O | N | A | L | I | Z | E |   |   |
|   | P | E | N | T | A | D |   |   | E | R | A | S | E | S |   |
|   |   | B | O | O | B | S |   |   | T | E | R | M |   |   |   |

## The Crossword Puzzle is found on page 4B